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GABBY HAYES WESTERN















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(GRRR) TILL KNOCK HIS TEETH OUT - GIVE HIM TWO OF THE WORST BLICE EVES WILL BEYER SAW --FLATTEN HIS NOSE ALL OVER HIS FACE -- BUST HIS JAW -- BREAK HIS ARM - AND KNOCK HIM NITUH THE HOSPITAL! (GRRR)





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FRAME-UP VICTIM

IT WAS a mean day on the Panhandle. Riding along, a poncho over his shoulders and a worn Stetson hat pulled down over his forehad. Buck Deemond equinted through the rain. As far as he could see, the hills ahead were grey and down with a sharing dewmpour. He was the read of the read

"Even the coyotes and crows!" Buck muttered to himself, lips curling up in a reluctant grin, "Nobody likes this weather!"

Slowly, he fashioned a cigarette under his protecting poncho. With his left hand, he attempted to strike a match. Twice he tried, and the flame sizzled out in the downpour. Finally it caught, and he lit the wrinkled cigarette, watching the smoke wreath away

in the slanting rain.

As he saw a rider a few hundred yards ahead, waiting by a crossroads of the trail,

Buck kneed his bay forward.

Loping toward the other man, Buck raised his hand in greeting. Seeing him coming, the rider spurred his horse toward him. As he approached, he called. "Howdy, Mistet! I'm sure glad to see you! I'm Will Sommers,

foreman of the Double-O ranch!" Buck reined the bay in, to look Sommers over. He was a big, broad man, with a black, tightly pinched slouch hat, and muscles that hulged at the seams of his blue levis. And right now, he seemed to be a worried man! "I don't know who you are, stranger," the Double-O foreman went on, "hut you can sure lend me a hand. A bunch of rannies have been making raids on my cattle! I'm short-handed, and I'm riding into town to get the sheriff! But I'd sure appreciate it if you could wait here, to keep watch while I'm gone." pointed back at a narrow arroyo opening that seemed to lead into a valley, a short distance from the crossroads. "I've got the Double-O cattle penned up in there, and the outlaws will he leery about making a play for them while I've got someone on guard."

Buck Desmond squinted, considering the

"You mean you want to hire me?" he asked.
"That's right!" Sommers nodded. "I said
I was short-handed, and I'll be happy to sign
you on as a cowpuncher. Your first joh will
be to keep watch on that arroyo opening, until
I set back with the sherifi!"

IT SEEMED LIKE AN odd way to get a job! But Buck Desmond had held many a strange job in his years of riding the range—and he had gotten them in strange ways. And right now, he needed a job badly! So...

right now, he needed a jon badly! So...
For perhaps two hours, he sat the bay, halfsheltered in the overhanging arroyo entrance.
The perhaps two hours, he sat the bay, halfsheltered in the overhanging arroyo entrance.
The perhaps the perhaps

As he puffed at the acrid cigarette, Buck suddenly became aware of what seemed to he a sound behind him—a creeping, creaking

Muscles tense, he whirled!

Coming down on him, he saw a heavy hand. Clutching a blunt gun butt! Desperately he tried to duck, to avoid the blow! But it struck, and he reeled to the ground, hlack waves of pain shuddering through his hody! There he lay, unconscious! And, as he lay there, the rain continued to beat down upon him.

The first thing Buck was aware of, as dim consciousness hegan to seep through the mist of pain, was the sound of a voice. It was a familiar voice. He had only heard it once before—but he remembered it. It was the voice of Will Sommers, foreman of the Doublace

"First time I've seen the galoot, Sheriff!" Sommers was saying. "There he was, with his buddies. They were keeping watch, while he was branding the Douhle-O dogies! I rushed them—and the other gents skedaddled with the cattle! But this hombre didn't get away! I made sure of that!"

Slowly, tremblingly, Buck raised his left hand to his temple. As he touched it, a spasm of pain went through him, and he remembered the gun hutt that had come slashing down on him from behind! Painfully, he began to rise . . . "Watch out!" he heard Sommers say. "He's

coming to, Sheriff!"

Crouching, Buck opened his eyes, Stand-

ing before him, the rain still coming down on them, were two men. One was Will Sommers, his face grim and hostile. And the other was an older, white-haired man, who wore a sheriff's star on his corduroy vest. "Get up!" the sheriff said. "Get up, Mister,

You've got a heap of explaining to do . . ."

The lawman motioned toward Will Sommers. This gent here." He said, "claims he found you and a bunch of other slicks making off with his cattlef. They got away, to says—but you didn't! What have you got to say, afore I take you ine?"

Buck wiped the rain from his forehead with

his left hand.

"I—I can't rightly say . . ." Then he set his jaw. "Sheriff, Sommers here hired me a couple of hours ago! Claimed he wanted me to keep watch on this valley entrance—while he went for you! I did, but while I was wait-

he went for you! I did, but while I was waiting, I was slugged from behind! If he says anything else, he's a blamed liar!"

The Double-O foreman laughed raucously. "Me-hire him! A man I never saw?" He laughed again, "Does that make sense, Sheriff?" He pointed at the ground, There, sheltered by the cliff-face, were the ashes of a small fire. And, lying by it, was a branding iron-with what looked like a Double-O brand with some curlicues added. "There's the evidence! When I came along, like I said, the other rannies were on guard-and this critter was holding onto one of the Double-O dogies with his left hand and changing his brand with the other? If he hadn't been so busy. I never would have caught him! But the cattle are all gone, and their track is washed out in the rain and this is one of the outlaws that's responsible!"

Buck leaned forward. It began to make sense I "Sheriff," he said, "that's his story . . . and I think I see the picture! Here's the way it actually was? Sommers had to cover up for a passel of missing cattle—and he needed a victim! He picked me, figuring my switchim! He picked me, figuring my solvetim! the picked me, figuring my set to unlikely I'd never be able to get clear. But he made a misske!"

The rambling cowhand faced the big ranch foreman

"So I was branding some dogies, eh?" he rasped. "How?"
"Like I said," the big man flushed. "You had them tied up—and you were holding them

down with your left hand and branding them with your right."

Buck grimmd. "That's what I thought you said—and it makes me plumb happy" Quickly, as the two men watched, he threw his
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you can answer that, your story might hold water! But you can't—and that proves the whole ruckus was a frame-up! Too bad you couldn't know about my arm."

The husky foreman swore suddenly and violently. His face twisted with fury, he lunged toward the rambling cowboy, fists swinging angrilly! "Show me up, will you? Why, you blamed, port-sided, no-good---"

He was that in his rage, but Buck Deamond was even faster in his Sweving quickly to the side, he thrust out a foot, throwing Sommers of bialance, so the big foreman could not avoid a lightning-like blow to his jaw from Buck's left fist! Again and again Buck slammed mighty punches home, to Sommers' face, chest and stormed—and always with his left hand. Finally the crooked foreman went down and lay on the wet ground, breathing heavily.

The sheriff shook his head. "Stranger," he said, "I didn't like the sound of Somer's story from the start. Seems to me I heard a tale about him losing some of his boxed cattle gambling, and he probably fagered this was a way to shift the blame. . . pretending rustlers made off with them! But he sure picked the wrong fall guy!"

THE lawman looked at Buck's left arm with wondering respect. "If you can do that much with just one arm," he smiled, "what can you do with two?"

Buck grinned back. "I don't know." he re-

Buck grinned back, "I don't know," he replied. "In this case, I'm just as glad I just had one! If I had two . . I might bave been on my way to jail this minute!"

THE END

Follow the exciting adventures of BUCK
DESMOND in every issue of GABBY HAYES
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IT WAS ALL IN VAIN!















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I MUST GO ON AFTER THE RED FOX BEFORE HISTRAIL GROWS COLD! PERHAPS I WILL SEE YOU WHEN I RETURN THIS WAY!

L SEE YOU WHEN
TURN THIS WAY!

GOOD! WE WILL
WELCOME YOU THIS

ATER, YOUNG FALCON RETURNS ALONG THE SAME TRAIL WITH A FINE, NEW PELT.

FINE, NEW PELT......
MY TWO FRIENDS CANNOT
BE FAR AHEAD ! BROTHER
OX WAS CAUGHT QUICKER
THAN 1°D HOPED AND I
WOULD SHOW THEM
THEM THEM















































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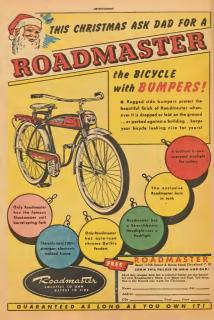














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